Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Wake, Marvalee H. 1988. *Minascaecilia, M. sartoria.*

Minascaecilia Wake and Campbell

Minascaecilia Wake and Campbell, 1983: 857. Type-species: *Minascaecilia sartoria* Wake and Campbell, 1983 by monotypy.

• **Definition and Diagnosis**. Small (to 300 mm total length), slender (body width to 5 mm), attentuate member of the subfamily Caeciliinae (as defined by Wake and Campbell, 1983). The eye is covered by bone, the margin of the tongue is free and it lacks narial plugs. The tentacle is near the eye and has a small aperture. The vent is simple, transverse and slightly lobed. The male intromittent organ is simple and straight, with ten long, fluted folds externally. The collar is complete, with a single dorsal groove. Two specimens are known: they have 130-131 and 81-83 primary and secondary annuli respectively. Teeth number 17-19 in the maxillary-premaxillary arcade, 19-21 in the vomeropalatine, and 18-19 in the dentary, respectively. Tooth crowns are monocuspid, strongly recurved, and diminish in length posteriorly. Each specimen has a single splenial tooth. Scales are small, embedded in the annuli from the 15-26th to the end of the body. Coloration in life was reported to be brownish-gray. In preservative, specimens are dark gray-black, with lighter annuli. The head is lighter in color, with a pale gray patch around the tentacle. The anterior part of the lower jaw and throat are paler gray. There is a light gray median stripe on the throat to the first collar. The vent is surrounded by pale gray skin. Glands are indicated by small white spots throughout the skin, but are concentrated anteriorly on the body.

Minascaecilia differs from *Parvicaecilia* in having the eye under bone and in having splenial teeth; from *Microcaecilia* in the greater number of annuli, in having splenial teeth and a free tongue margin; from *Oscaecilia* in having fewer primary and more secondary annuli, and in having the tentacle near the eye and the tongue free; and from *Caecilia* in having the eye covered by bone and in the different primary and secondary annular counts.

• **Descriptions, Illustrations, Distribution, Fossil Record and Pertinent Literature**. See Species Account.

• **Etymology.** The genus is named after the mountain range in which it occurs (Sierra de las Minas) and after its family and subfamily *(caecilia)*.

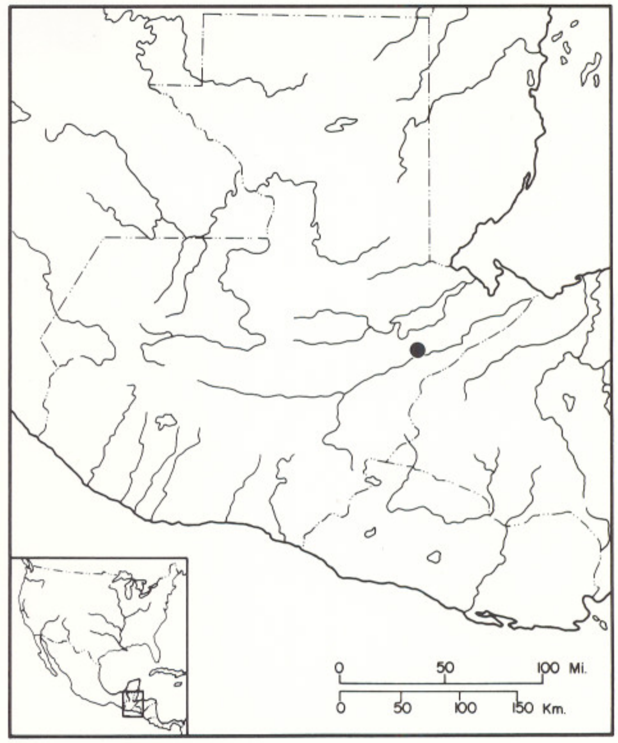
Minascaecilia sartoria Wake and Campbell

Minascaecilia sartoria Wake and Campbell, 1983: 857-863. Type-locality," Aldea Vista Hermosa, Municipio Los Amates, Departamento de Izabal, Guatemala, 650 m." Holotype, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History 189566 collected 28 May 1981 by a native worker and given to R. F. Savage (examined by author).

• **Definition and Diagnosis**. See generic account.

• **Illustrations**. Photographs and X-rays of the holotype are in Wake and Campbell (1983).

• **Distribution**. Known only from the Type-locality. *M. sartoria* is disjunct from other members of the subfamily Caeciliinae, occurring some 1500 km NW of the Panamanian-northern South American species. Wake and Campbell (1983) consider this to be true disjunction in distribution rather than an artifact in collecting.



Map. Closed circle marks the Type-locality.

• **Fossil Record**. None.

• **Pertinent Literature**. The description of the genus and species (Wake and Campbell, 1983) includes comments on ecology and habitat and the relationships of the taxon to other caecilians. Wake (in press) comments on its biogeography and relationships.

• **Etymology.** Named in honor of Edward H. Taylor [*sartorius* = (Latin for tailor)], whose work on caecilians made further work possible.

Literature Cited

Wake, Marvalee H. in press. The biogeography of mesoamerican caecilians (Amphibia: Gymnophiona.) Brenesia (Suppl.).—

—, and Jonathan A. Campbell. 1983. A new genus and species of caecilian from the Sierra de las Minas of Guatemala. Copeia 1983 (4): 857-863.

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